

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AGR-10 USIA-15 AID-05 EB-07 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7372

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: FAO, UN, EAID

SUBJ: WFP/CFA, 1ST SESSION -- TARGETS FOR OTHER FOOD AID
COMMODITIES

1. DISCUSSION THIS TOPIC (AGENDA ITEM 6C) INITIATED APRIL 28 AND CONCLUDED MAY 3. SECRETARIAT PAPER NOTED THAT WORLD FOOD COUNCIL AT FIST SESSION HAS REQUESTED CFA TO CONSIDER ESTABLISHING TARGETS FOR MILK AND FISH PRODUCTS AS WELL AS FATS AND OILS, PRESENTED CASE FOR SUCH TARGETS AND SUGGESTED USE OF PREVIOUS 5 YEARS AVERAGE. FAO DG SACUMA, IN HIS ADDRESS TO CFA, URGED IMPLEMENTATION THIS PROPOSAL.

2. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, LED BY INDIA, PAKISTAN, INDONESIA, GUINEA (OBSERVER), UGANDA AND CONGO, GAVE STRONG SUPPORT TO TARGETS THESE COMMODITIES. WHILE WILLING TO GO ALONG WITH SECRETARIAT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PRESENT, THEY ARGUED THAT MORE APPROPRIATE BASIS FOR TARGETS WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT NEEDS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OR BEAR A NUTRITIONAL RELATIONSHIP TO THE 10 MILLION TON GRAIN TARGET. LATTER, FOR EXAMPLE, WOULD CALL FOR DAIRY AND OIL TARGETS OF 900,000 AND 700,000 TONS RESPECTIVELY (VERSUS 150,000 AND 250,000 TON TARGETS ARRIVED AT BY 5 YEAR AVERAGE).

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3. AMONG DONOR COUNTRIES, ONLY US STATED SERIOUS RESERVATIONS

WITH TARGETS FOR COMMODITIES OTHER THAN GRAINS AND MADE CLEAR IT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO COMMIT ITSELF TO CONTRIBUTE TO TARGETS IF ESTABLISHED. JAPAN SAID IT WAS NOT IN FAVOR OF TARGETS AT THIS TIME. SWEDEN, WHILE AGREEING TO OTHER COMMODITY TARGETS IN PRINCIPLE, SUGGESTED THAT WE SHOULD CONCENTRATE FO PRESENT ON ACHIEVING THE 10 MILLION TONS. EEC COUNTRIES AND CANADA TOOK POSITION THAT FURTHER ANALYSIS NECESSARY BEFORE CFA COULD REACH CONCLUSION THIS MATTER. A NUMBER ASKED FOR WFP SECRETARIAT ANALYSIS OF THE ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY OF FOOD AID RECIPIENTS FOR COMMODITES OTHER THAN GRAINS, AND CANADA NOTED THAT TARGETS CAN HAVE IMPORTANT IMPLICATIONS FOR PRODUCTION POLICIES.

4. IN LIGHT DIVERGENT VIEWS EXPRESSED DURING DEBATE, DONOR COUNTRIES WARE CAUGHT LARGELY UNPREPARED BY APPARENTLY INNOCENT QUESTION FROM CHAIR WHETHER THERE WOULD BE ANY OBJECTION TO CFA APPROVING TARGETS FOR OTHER COMMODITIES ON TEMPORARY BASIS AS PROPOSED IN PARA 29 OF SECRETARIAT DOCUMENT (A PAKISTAN SUGGESTION). USDEL REITERATED US PROBLEMS BUT SAID WE WOULD NOT OPPOSE CONSENSUS. OTHER DONORS REMAINED SILENT.

5. DURING RECESS, IT QUICKLY BECAME APPARENT THAT MANY OF THE DONOR NATIONS DID NOT IN FACT REALIZE WHAT HAD HAPPENED. ACCORDINGLY, AFTER LONG DISCUSSION WITH CHAIRMAN, USDEL ASKED TO REOPEN DEBATE STATING THAT IN US VIEW THERE WAS NOT CONSENSUS IN FAVOR OF ADOPTING TARGETS OFOR OTHER COMMODITIES AT THIS TIME. EEC OBSERVER, CANADA, JAPAN AND NETHERLANDS STRONGLY SUPPORTED THIS POSITION. DEVELOPING COUNTRY EXPONENTS REITERATED THEIR POSITION. CHAIRMAN RULED THAT FINAL REPORT SHOULD BE LIMITED TO RECORDING ALL VIEWS EXPRESSED.VOLPE

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